

COMMEMORATING JULIE M. AUSTIN'S SERVICE WITH FOOTHILL TRANSIT JULY 24, 2003

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2003*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Ms. Julie M. Austin. On July 30, 2003, the Foothill Transit Executive Board will wish a fond farewell to Ms. Austin, who is leaving her position as Executive Director of Foothill Transit and Vice President of Transit Management for ATC/Forsythe & Associates, Inc., a post she has held since 1997.

Foothill Transit was created in 1988, making it one of the largest public-private transit partnerships in the United States. Since this time it has delivered cost-effective, safe and efficient bus service to commuters and residents in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, located in the eastern portion of Los Angeles County in southern California. Foothill Transit now operates on 32 routes with nearly 300 buses and almost 17 million annual boardings, a marked increase from the 9.5 million boardings at the time of the creation of the transit agency. As Executive Director, Ms. Austin is responsible for implementing Executive Board policies, developing policy recommendations and providing leadership and vision for the nationally recognized Foothill Transit.

Throughout her tenure with Foothill Transit, Ms. Austin has ensured that southern California commuters are provided with the safest and most efficient transit system possible. Under her leadership, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) recognized Foothill Transit in 2001 with a "Bus Safety Gold Award," dubbing Foothill Transit the safest transit agency of its size. Foothill Transit was also named "Outstanding Transit System" of its size by APTA in 1993 and 1995. The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the National Safety Council recognized Foothill Transit in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2001 with first-place awards for its safety programs.

Ms. Austin was also instrumental in both expanding and modernizing Foothill Transit's mode of operations. In 2002, Foothill Transit opened a new era in fuel-efficient technology by beginning its conversion to a compressed natural gas (CNG) fleet with plans to have an all-CNG fleet by 2011. That same year, Foothill Transit opened its second operations and maintenance facility in Irwindale, joining its first agency-owned facility in Pomona, which opened in 1997.

She has contributed to the success of public transit in Los Angeles County as Director of Management Support from 1993 to 1995 at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and as Senior Transit Analyst/Manager of Transportation Policy from 1989 to 1993 at the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, where she oversaw a three-year evaluation of the Foothill Transit Zone. She also worked for the Southern California Association of Governments for three years and spent several years as a transportation consultant.

A resident of the City of Monrovia, California, Ms. Austin has a bachelor's degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State

University, San Luis Obispo. She is active in the American Public Transit Association (Legislative Committee), California Transit Association (Executive Committee), San Gabriel Valley Commerce and Cities Consortium Board, Women's Transportation Seminar, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Transit Committee, and West Covina Chamber of Commerce.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring this truly remarkable leader in the field of public transit and to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

**HONORING FALLEN HEROES OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM**

**HON. MAX BURNS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2003*

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this nation. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Georgia's Third Infantry Division proudly led the way to Baghdad. The road to Baghdad, however, presented substantial challenges and, unfortunately, some of these brave soldiers will not return.

Today, I acknowledge this Congress' deep appreciation for lives that were dedicated to the safety and security of our citizens. The soldiers epitomized the best of our country through courage, selfless service, and honor. Their lives will be remembered by family and friends; their service will be appreciated by us all.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Chanel Pedersen and her daughter of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her husband Sergeant Michael F. Pedersen in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Meighan Adamowski of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her husband Captain James F. Adamowski in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Maria Forey-Aitken of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her husband Captain Tristan N. Aitken in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to Ms. Annette Hale of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her stepson Captain Edward J. Korn in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Jenna Cosbey Kaylor of Savannah, Georgia, who lost her husband Second Lieutenant Jeffrey J. Kaylor in the Iraqi conflict.

I pay tribute to the stepchildren and niece of Sergeant Keman Mitchell, who live in Hephzibah, Georgia, and lost their father and uncle in the Iraqi conflict.

Mr. Speaker, many families and friends mourn the loss of these and other lives lost during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I express my condolences to their families and friends and thank them for their dedication to a grateful Nation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HONORING MR. HARLEY COON OF BEAVERCREEK, OHIO**

**HON. DAVID L. HOBSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2003*

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harley Coon who resides in

Beavercreek in the 7th Congressional District. I have had the honor of meeting Harley at different community events over the years, and it is very appropriate that he was honored today on Capitol Hill by the Korean War Veterans' Association on the 50th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War.

At the age of 19, Harley Coon was captured on Nov. 17, 1950 while serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Korea. Over the next three years Mr. Coon suffered greatly as a prisoner of war from hunger, exposure, and brutal conditions in the various prison camps where he was detained.

On Aug. 31, 1953, Harley Coon was released to U.S. Forces after 33 months and four days of imprisonment. After the war, Coon became a successful businessman, never forgetting how lucky he was to be around to enjoy his freedom.

Coon was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame for all his, commitment and caring in Ohio. He continues to travel nationally and internationally as the National President of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Harley received the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with 10 battle stars, the U.N. Service Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

As the Congressman who represents Beavercreek in the U.S. House of Representatives, I offer my sincere congratulations to Harley Coon for this public recognition of his service to our country.

**HONORING JOHN SEXTON OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate John J. Sexton of Chicago on his recent retirement from his position as Superintendent of the Meter Division of the City of Chicago's Water Department.

For the last 30 years, John Sexton has risen through the ranks with the City, from machinist, to foreman, to Assistant Superintendent of the Meter Division, and finally Superintendent. His dedication to his job and the city he loves is an example of why Chicago is known as "The City That Works."

John Sexton is very proud of the northwest side of Chicago, the area he has called home for his entire life, and of the Hiawatha Park neighborhood, the area where he and his wife have raised their family. John has been very active at the part and is a past president of the Hiawatha Boys Baseball Organization.

As church life plays such an important role in the lives of so many Chicagoans, John has been a member of several esteemed Northwest side parishes. He grew up in Presentation Parish, attended grammar school at St. Angela's and high school at St. Michael's. He currently is a member of St. Francis Borgia Parish.

The Northwest side has produced some of Chicago's finest leaders, and John Sexton has played an active part in the success of many of their careers. John's work in Chicago politics began when he was 16 as a precinct worker for former Alderman Thomas Casey. He is now a precinct captain in the mighty